



18-E-0845 / DOC- 5630179

23 November 2018

Hayden

C/- fyi-request-8864-a4169bc8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Hayden

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 13 October 2018. You requested the following:

“the full autopsy results of the five birds that were dumped at Parliament on September the 13th (I think that is the correct date.)”

By way of correction, the date of this incident was 12 September. I am assuming you are referring to those birds which are “Absolutely Protected Species” under the provisions of the Wildlife Act 1953. There was a total of six birds that fell within this category.

The responses to your query are listed below:

Bird 1. Adult male kereru – Cause of death “Musculoskeletal Trauma” the injuries being consistent with a window strike.

Bird 2. Adult female kereru – Cause of death as listed for Bird 1.

Bird 3. Adult male weka – Cause of death “Severe Musculoskeletal Trauma” the injuries consistent with a collision with a motor vehicle.

Bird 4. Adult male weka – Cause of death “Musculoskeletal Trauma consistent with ballistic injury.” Entry wound would indicate a ballistic calibre of .22 should be considered.

Bird 5. Adult red-billed gull (Sex unknown) – Cause of death “Severe Musculoskeletal Trauma” consistent with being struck by a motor vehicle.

Bird 6. Adult male kingfisher – Cause of death unable to be definitively determined due to decomposition.

I have decided not to release the full autopsy reports, because the Department has an investigation open into this incident. The reports are therefore being withheld under the following section of the Official Information Act:

- section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary Aikman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Hilary Aikman
Director National Operations